IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add the following new paragraph after the Title and before the first paragraph on page 1:

THIS APPLICATION IS A U.S. NATIONAL PHASE APPLICATION OF PCT INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PCT/JP03/15534.

*Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 11 as follows:*

In Fig. 2, electrode assembly 20 is prepared by sandwiching positive electrode plate 23 in a form of sheet strip composed mainly of a nickel oxide and negative electrode plate 24 also of a sheet strip form with separators 25 of the same sheet strip form, each placed between the electrode plates 23 and 24 in a manner to isolate them electrically, winding the assembly around a spool of a prescribed diameter into a spiral configuration, wrapping around them with an insulation tape to fix the wound configuration, and resistance-welding a metal collector of substantially a circular shape to projecting portions 27, 29 of the positive and the negative electrode plates by using a bronze welding rod. After the electrode assembly 20 bearing the metal collectors attached thereto by welding is inserted in metal case 26, metal collector 28 at the bottom side welded to projecting portions 27 under the negative electrode plate 24 is further welded electrically to a bottom surface of metal case 26 by a bronze welding rod inserted through a void space in the center of electrode assembly 20 from where the spool has been removed, and a given amount of alkaline electrolyte is injected from an opening on top of metal case 26. After that, metal seal plate 22 provided with a positive terminal 31 of a cap-like shape is inserted in the top opening of metal case 26, lead wire 30 defining a collector tab is connected to a lower surface

of metal seal plate 22, and finally the top opening of metal case 26 and metal seal plate 22 are sealed together with gasket 33 placed around a fringe between them to thus complete an alkaline storage battery of the structure shown in Fig. 2 of this exemplary embodiment of the invention. The secondary battery contained as a unit battery in the battery package of this invention needs not be limited to the alkaline storage battery of the structure shown in Fig. 2, but it can be a nickel hydrogen battery which uses negative electrode plate [[4]]24 composed of a base material coated with powder of hydrogen storage alloy.

*Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 18, line 20 as follows:*

Sensor 3 comprising a thermistor, for example, for monitoring temperature is placed in the vicinity of the batteries to constantly check a temperature of the batteries. Normally, an NTC (i.e., negative temperature coefficient) type thermistor is used as a suitable device for this temperature-monitoring sensor 3. In this invention, ~~battery voltage detector 1 send~~ a signal is sent to operational control circuit 4 comprising the microcomputer IC or the like device when a rate of change in temperature of the batteries exceeds a predetermined value, and operational control circuit 4 in turn gives a command for termination of the charging operation to charge interruption controller 5 comprising the switching device such as an FET. This turns off the switch in charging current interrupter 6 also comprising the switching device such as an FET, and the charge is thus terminated. It is desirable that the rate of temperature change "$\Delta T$" of the batteries is kept between 0.5 and 4.0°C/min, since it requires a considerably long time for charging and discharging process if it is smaller than 0.5°C/min, and it accelerates degradation of the batteries substantially if larger than 4.0°C/min. In consideration of working hours required

for charging and discharging properly as well as the serviceable life of the batteries, it is more desirable that the rate of temperature change "ΔT" of the batteries is set between 1.0 and 3.0°C/min before interrupting the charge. If the rate of temperature change "ΔT" of the batteries is larger than the above value, it means the batteries are charged or discharged with a current equal to or exceeding 5. 0·It. Since this leads to an overcharge in excess of 120% of the initial capacity, it can result in a large amount of gases generated inside the batteries, as described previously in relation of the overcharge to generation of the gasses. This gives rise to a possibility of degrading the secondary batteries and deteriorating the property affecting their serviceable life. For this reason, the batteries are charged subsequently up to 150 to 200% of the initial capacity by changing the charging current to 2.0·It for a given duration of time controlled by the timer function (may be called timer charging) provided in operational control circuit 4 comprising the microcomputer or the like. The timer charging makes possible to overcharge the batteries that have become inactive, and to reactivate them. In battery package 101 shown in Fig. 1, operational control circuit 4 actually counts the charging time. When the charging time is set to 30 minutes, for instance, operational control circuit 4 comprising the microcomputer or the like sends a signal again to charge interruption controller 5 comprising the switching device such as an FET after the lapse of 30 minutes, and charging current interrupter 6 comprising the switching device such as an FET also turns off its switch to terminate the charging process.